payable to Delhi State, as a regular mechanism, for the year 1994-95 and onwards". Hence the deduction from Plan assistance for the earlier dues could not be done.

(c) The deduction from the Plan assistance of Delhi is in compliance of Cabinet decision by way of adjustment for payment to BTPS against its dues from DESU and therefore its restoration does not arise.

(d) The Chief Minister of Delhi has been informed that the financial position of BTPS has become very critical in view of the continuous default and irregularity in payment of its dues by DESU and that all necessary steps be taken to improve the financial position of DESU including maximising the generation, enforcing better supply & demand management measures, reduction of its T&D losses and checking of pilferage of power etc.

Agreement with Britain for power Projects

1179. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any expert team of Industrialists led by British Power Minister visited India in connection with setting up of power projects in the country;

(b) if so, whether any Memorandum of Understanding has been signed;

(c) whether the team found Orissa best suited for settig up the power plant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) A team led by the British Minister for Trade, had visited India late last year with a large business delegation which included representatives from the Power industry. Amongst the agreements and announcements made was an agreement to refurbish power stations in India signed between an Indian company and a British collaborator.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no information available with the Minisry of Power.

Agreement signed by National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC)

1180. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Francici Farmon Ke Consortium Ke Saath Karar Se NHPC Ko Arbon Rupey Ka Nuksaan Hoga" and "Bharat bijili ke liye krishi-kachre Ka paryog kare" appearing in the Jansatta and Da'nik Jagran dated 5th and 8th August, 1994 respectively.

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As the French Company responsible for the civil construction work at Dulhasti HE Project was not prepared to continue work at the Project site in view of its perception of the securiy environment prevailng in the area. NHPC has entered into an agreement with the French Consortium which envisages termination of the contract with the French civil construction firm and continuation of the remaining four members of the Consortium with their obligations. This agreement was arrived at after prolonged negotiations between the two sides in regard to resumption of work on the project. The construction equipment and ma

terials being taken over by NHPC from the French civil construction firm are expected to be used for execution of the balance civil works by making alternative arrangements. The agreement aimed at resolving the continuing impasse beween NHPC and the French Consortium by bringing about a compromise between the two sides on reasonable terms so that work could be resumed at the earliest possible.

The second press report referred to in part (a) of the Question relates to the use of agricultural wastes for production of electricity. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources which is dealing with this source of energy, has informed that a study carried out by the National Productivity Council had estimated that the quantity of bio-mass material comprising of various agricultural wastes, agro-industrial wastes, forest wastes etc. in the said Phaltan Taduka of Maharashtra could be around 320 million tonnes, a significant portion of which could be spared for production of liquid/gaseous fuels. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has set up a Task Force to assess the overall potential of the concept, the technologies available, techno-economic viability of these technologies and promotional measures required for implementation of a large scale country-wide programme so as to decide the future strategies for replication of the concept.

Private Sector Power Projects

1181. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the power projects in the private sector for which MOUs have been signed;

(b) what are the projects which have since started functioning and by when these power projects are likely to be completed;

(c) what are the reasons for delay in the implementation of the remaining power projects; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) As per information received so far from State Electricity Boards/ POWERGRID Corporation/ Energy Management Centre, approximately 121 number of Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) have been entered into with private power proponents involving a total capacity of 54579 MW. The details are given in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix 173, Annexure No. 30).

(b) to (d) The projects can start functioning after they receive all necessary clearances, achieve financial closure and complete construction of these projects. Dabhol Phase-I (695 MW) has achieved financial closure and would be completed by November, 1997. Ib Valley TPS (420 MW) and Paguthan CCGT (655 MW) have received all clearances and should achieve financial closure soon. The Government extends all possible assistence to the project proponents in regard to their obtaining all clearances and achieving financial closure.

Delay in the processing of power projects

1182. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the power projects for which funds have been tied up but the processing of the proposals have been delayed;

(b) what are the reasons for deday in the processing of these power projects stating the period by which the processing of each of the proposal has been delayed;

(c) what is the extent of commitment charges paid to the world bank and other financial institutions as a re-